

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Lance Middleton

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: N/A

Filed: Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: ARTIFICIAL INTERVERTEBRAL DISC

MS Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

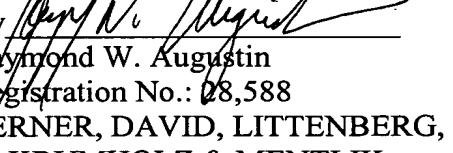
Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the references listed on the enclosed form be made of record and considered with respect to the above-referenced U.S. patent application. A copy of each reference was of record in Application No. 09/821,876, the benefit of which is claimed under §120. Submission of the present Information Disclosure Statement should not be taken as an admission that the cited references are legally available prior art or that the same are pertinent or material.

In the event that any fee is due in connection with the present Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Dated: September 26, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Raymond W. Augustin  
Registration No.: 08,588  
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,  
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP  
600 South Avenue West  
Westfield, New Jersey 07090  
(908) 654-5000  
Attorney for Applicant

Express Mail Label No. EV 342607642 US Dated: September 26, 2003

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
				Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Lance Middleton
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	SPINE 3.0-2144 DIV II

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	AA	US-4,349,921	09-21-1982	Kuntz	
	AB	US-4,863,477	09-05-1989	Monson	
	AC	US-4,874,389	10-17-1989	Downey	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			
	BA	RU-2 004 218	02-15-1991		
Examiner Signature				Date Considered	

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Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	SPINE 3.0-2144 DIV II

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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>

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